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LETTER DATED 4 APRIL 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of statements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic issued 3 and 4 April 1994 (see annexes).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex I

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 3 April 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

Despite the continuing attempts of the world community to assist in a political settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, the self-styled leaders of the occupied Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic are stubbornly bringing all the peacemaking efforts to naught.

The uncivilized acts committed by the Armenian side, designed to disrupt the latest attempt at a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict undertaken by an international good-will mission headed by the representative of France to the CSCE Minsk group, Madame E. Dubois, are clearly seen to be a refusal by the Armenian side to allow a mission from Baku to visit the town of Hankendi (Stepanakert), which raises doubts concerning its statements about its desire for peace. Such defiant acts by the Armenian separatists of Nagorny Karabakh, dictating their conditions to international peacemaking missions, reflect the latest attempts to prove to the world the legality of their claims to the occupied territories of the Azerbaijani Republic.

The leadership of Azerbaijan has consistently advocated, and continues to advocate, a comprehensive settlement of the conflict between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic by political means and has supported those initiatives by international organizations and individual States which should lead to the suspension of military activities. The latest action by the Armenian side, however, once again reveals the desire of the Republic of Armenia and its henchmen in Nagorny Karabakh to seize the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic states that such acts by the Armenian side will not promote a speedy settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and once again reveal the true intentions of the leadership of the Republic of Armenia and its puppet-separatists in Nagorny Karabakh, which are aimed at a settlement of the Karabakh problem not by political means but under pressure of force.

Baku, 3 April 1994

Annex II

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 4 April 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

According to a report by the SNARK news agency, the Supreme Court of Armenia has instituted legal proceedings against 11 Azerbaijanis.

According to information received from the same source, "last spring, when armed units of the Republic of Armenia occupied the Kelbajar district of Azerbaijan, former soldiers of the Azerbaijani army who had remained in the territory of that district were alleged to have seized three civilians of Armenian nationality, savagely killed them and, after disguising themselves as peaceful inhabitants, asked to be taken out of the encircled area through the Vardenis district of Armenia".

In the face of reports of this kind, one cannot fail to be persuaded once again of their slanderous nature.

First, during the period of the occupation there could be no civilians of Armenian nationality in the territory of the Kelbajar district of Azerbaijan since there have never been any Armenian settlements in the territory of that district. Most probably they were soldiers of the armed forces of Armenia.

Second, the report concerning the attempts of the Azerbaijanis to leave the encircled area through the Vardenis district of Armenia also does not correspond to the facts since there was no need to enter Armenian territory in order to leave the encircled area.

As has happened repeatedly in the past, Armenia is hiding behind such reports while continuing its aggressive acts against Azerbaijan.

The world community has long condemned the inhumane treatment of prisoners of war. These principles are reflected in the 1949 Geneva Conventions "for the protection of war victims".

The institution of criminal proceedings against former Azerbaijani soldiers is clearly contrary to the generally accepted principles of international law.

The fact that legal proceedings have been instituted against former Azerbaijani soldiers is reliable evidence of Armenia's participation in the aggression against Azerbaijan. What other explanation can there be for the presence of prisoners of war in the territory of Armenia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan calls upon the world community, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international organizations to condemn strongly the inhumane acts of the law-enforcement organs of the Republic of Armenia.

Baku, 4 April 1994